

# St. Helens Mist

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Ernest G. Coan ..... Editor and Manager

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### COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER.

### OREGON NEEDS CHEAP LAND.

As we hope for state aggrandisement the vital need of Oregon is cheap land.

We want people in this state who will make homes—productive homes—the sort of homes from which spring the most dependable citizenship of the community. The kind of people who make those homes are those of resolute purpose, strong bodies and normal minds. Sometimes they have money, but seldom do they have much money. For the establishment of the homes they hope to build they must have land, and it must be cheap land or the homemaking will fail and the state will suffer.

The land which would supply this need is not available in Oregon. This is too patent for argument. To be assured of it one has only to go out and try to buy the land suitable for the productive home. It does not matter particularly into what part of the state he may go, he will meet with the same condition. He will find the prices of land to be such that he cannot afford to buy on the reasonable expectation of making good. If he does not buy he becomes a poor advertiser for the state. If he does buy and does not make good, in that fact and in his subsequent attitude he does much to the damage of the state's reputation.

We solicit this homeseker and homebuilder from the outside continuously. Suppose we be honest with ourselves and consider the futility of persevering in this course, while we ignore the problem of cheap land in this state, that appeals to us imperatively for solution.

So long as we shall continue thus at cross purposes we can charge up a vast amount of intelligent energy and printer's ink to the community's profit and loss account. We can exploit until the day of kingdom come, and if we do not get down to the fundamental, which is the usable price of land, our exploitation, like spurious charity, will be as sounding brass and tinkling cymbal.

The recent decision of the railroad land grant case brings this issue of cheap land emphatically to the fore. It suggests, and very many people believe, that it proffers the opportunity to get cheap land—the very land that is needed by the homebuilder and settler—and at a price that will enable him to acquire and build and prosper as the community builds and grows. In fact, there is something like a public resolve to realize that condition. Can we improve this opportunity and realize it, or must we let slip through our fingers as other opportunities have done hitherto?

That is a question of vital importance here in Oregon, and by the policy we finally evolve with respect to the disposition of these grant lands we must answer it. Will the answer be for the homebuilder or against him?

It is not at all to the present purpose to suggest any detail or the formulation of any outline for the plan that should or that may be pursued with relation to these lands. It should be a matter of clear conviction, however, that the necessity for cheap land, coupled with the opportunity which the court decision in this land grant case presents should be held constantly and resolutely in mind. There should be a determination that the final solution of that matter must serve the need of the state of Oregon and its future homebuilders.

There is no public question before the people of Oregon at the present time of greater moment than this—none that demands more serious thought and discussion. It is presented practically as an alternative—a sort of last chance, to put in effect that which is clearly the most effective policy for the development of the state or forever after hold our peace and let unbridled land speculation rest as an incubus upon the commonwealth.

The sole recommendation this paper has to offer at the present time is that we discuss, agitate and canvas this subject thoroughly from premise to conclusion. Let it have the best thought of the community which will stick to the one purpose of discovering the policy and adopting the procedure that will benefit the state by an increase of homes and contented, prosperous citizenry.

For all these, cheap land is the fundamental.—Portland Telegram.

### NEWSPAPER PERSONALITY.

No newspaper man ever pleased all the people and no newspaper man ever expects to do such a thing. When one adopts the course which appeals to him as being right, he is conducting a newspaper as it should be. If he makes enemies under such circumstances he ought to be proud of it.

Every newspaper has a personality exactly like every man and woman.

It has a logical entity that is conceivable in an instant just like that one thought which rises to the surface whenever we think or speak of an individual.

Mention the name of any paper and the instant idea that flashes into the minds of hearer and speaker alike is the fact about the character of that newspaper; is the sum of all its achievements, good or bad, reflected in a second, and exciting admiration, hostility or disdain, as the case may be.

This quick impression bears a certain relation to that remarkable fact recorded of the drowning man, whose whole life, it has been testified, passes before his inner vision in an instant.

So the sum of the whole history, of the whole character, of any journal flashes on the mental retina whenever its name is mentioned.

And the curious fact in this connection is that the same emotion in the case of so very public an enterprise as a newspaper is common to all of us.

There is no kind of business that is from its very necessity so open to criticism and so threshed out in the public conscience as the conduct of a newspaper.

After one has become fully established there are never two opinions about it in the mind of the general public. It is either good or the other kind.—Benton County Courier.

### GERMANY WOULD MAKE PEACE.

While the German army is holding the forces of the Allies completely at bay, having frustrated the combined efforts of the French and British forces, and having chased the Russians until they are almost out of wind, it is whispered that the kaiser is willing to make peace while the advantage is with the Teuton cause, fearing that new developments may soon bring a disastrous change in the situation.

The great question with the kaiser seems to be how long will he be able to hold his present grip on the situation. Italy is steadily gnawing her way towards the very vitals of Austria, the Dardanelles may be forced any day, Russia supplied with more ammunition and the Balkan states brought into war on the side of the Allies. And if these things would happen it would no doubt spell disaster for Germany. Germany realizes that she is completely hemmed in by her enemies and if they are able to hang together the time may come that will witness her disaster. It is improbable that the country can hold out and fight against such odds.

German peace terms which are being talked of are: Berlin demands the Belgian Congo as compensation for the evacuation of Belgium, and the cession of Morocco or other African territory as compensation for the evacuation of northern France.

Berlin also demands the restoration of its African colonies taken by Great Britain, but is willing to surrender all claims to the Chinese interests captured by Japan. An international agreement must also be reached providing for the absolute freedom of the seas.

### PROMOTION OF PROSPERITY.

The Mist is always a promoter of prosperity and wants to see every citizen in Columbia county become a persistent peddler of prosperity and dealers in progressive sunshine. We realize there are knockers in every community, although there is less excuse for their existence in these parts than in any portion of our country.

It is time to turn from the small things of the past to the glorious certainties of the future, and every citizen should stand shoulder to shoulder in the final achievement that will bring prosperity to all.

Let the croaker croak until you are able to drown his croaking with the wave of prosperity which is about to sweep over Columbia county. Let the living tangible results marking the accomplishment of this great achievement give the lie to the fulminations of the knocker. There is no time to waste upon such creatures. The greatness of the opportunity so over-shadows the puny efforts of the knocker that to descend to his level is retrogression. There is no knocker in all Columbia county who can hope to stem the tide of advancing development and prosperity. Close your ears and forget him.

### ORIGIN OF PRINTER'S DEVIL.

In the early days of printing this art was much of a mystery, and ignorant people thought the printer evoked the aid of the powers of evil. Aldus Manutius, the famous Italian printer of the sixteenth century, went to Africa in an exploring expedition and brought back with him a very black negro boy. Negroes were a rarity then. The report immediately gained circulation that the printer had been employing the black art in his work and that the pickaninny was in reality an imp of Satan. He was called the "Little Black Devil." The charge became so serious that the printer was forced to exhibit the negro in public. In his announcement he said:

"Do it known to Venice that I, Aldus Manutius, printer to the Holy Church and to the Doge, have this day made public exposure of the printer's devil. All those who think he is not flesh and blood may come and pinch him."

### ST. HELENS (?) BAND.

St. Helens at one time boasted of a musical organization as good as any of its size. Where is it today? An outside band had to be employed to furnish the music for the three days' celebration. Not because the committee wished to do so, but because St. Helens had no band to secure.

Something is sadly wrong. With a full set of instruments, music, etc., it has been impossible to get enough players together to carry a tune; whether it is the fault of the musicians or lack of moral support from the citizens is the question.

The few that have borne the brunt and endeavored to keep the organization together are to be praised, but out of the twenty-five good musicians in the city, the majority have shown their lack of public spirit by their actions in the matter.

California has been having a war among the undertakers. The rates have been cut so low that it now pays a man in that state to hurry up and die before a combine is re-established. And down in California they also have a way of making a fellow want to die just as soon as his money gives out. It is the finest country on the continent as long as the rocks last, but the fitness disappears when the exchequer runs low.

It is said that Congressman Sims of Tennessee, wired the President the following epigram upon Bryan's resignation: "The people are with you, and they never resign."

It will not be long until the Arizona, Uncle Sam's greatest battleship, will be ready for service. And the Arizona is the greatest naval fighting machine in the world.

Bob Cole and E. A. Rotger of the Illuminating and decorating committees respectively, did themselves honor. Never did St. Helens see herself in so much attire.

It is better to wait at a railway crossing than at a doctor's office, is the admonition given to motorists by a western railway.

"Clean-up" week is indeed a sporadic activity, as some say, but perhaps after awhile the spasms may be made more frequent.

We are told by scientists that two persons starting in the opposite direction will meet again. Perhaps there is yet some chance for Wilson and Bryan.

To make St. Helens the city beautiful, each and every property owner has to do his share.

It's all over for this year. Next big event—the county fair, September 22, 23, 24.

### PROMPT ACTION

Is Necessary to Save Many Thousands of Starving Mexicans.

The action of the Red Cross society in asking all governors of Mexican states to relieve the famine sufferers, is considered most generally as a waste of telegraph tolls, as the governors are powerless to get corn that does not exist in Mexico. Millions of bushels must be imported immediately from the bins of the United States or thousands (some place the estimate as high as tens of thousands) of Mexicans will starve to death. The Constitutionalists consider the importation of ammunition paramount and are not spending money to import corn, although knowing the desperate condition and the food shortage throughout the southern part of Mexico. Even if cargoes of corn were sent by the Red Cross society to Vera Cruz they would not relieve the situation in the interior, where suffering is the most, as distribution under present conditions would be impossible without foreign supervision. The entire time and energies of all the political factions of Mexico are devoted to fighting each other or other factions, and the feeding of non-combatants is a secondary consideration.

Corn in Vera Cruz is quoted as selling at fifty centavos a litre, or about fourteen pesos a bushel, and very little is to be had even at that prohibitive price. Last year's crop is practically exhausted and the next crop is not due for some three months. It is estimated by authorities that the crop this year will be short over former years some 40,000,000 bushels.

Already in many sections the people are dying by the hundreds of starvation and conditions at the best are getting no better but rapidly growing worse. Hunger is the foreword. It is forcing small farmers to join the armies or roving bands of marauders as their only means of existence. Reliable men coming out of stricken Mexico City say they saw a line of persons a block long, four abreast, waiting to buy corn, which the Zapata authorities are selling at twenty-five centavos a quartillo, which is about one-fourth the price charged in Vera Cruz. Zapata had seized all the corn in his territory, they control and are doling it out daily to the poor class at the above rate. The corn line forms early in the evening, and remains all night, the sun beating down too hot for them to stand in line in the day time.

One firm, Arubuckle Bros., paid 650 pesos for a ton of corn for their employees at Puntreco, near Vera Cruz. Hardly had they gotten it stored away when forty Carranzista soldiers passing through the town took the majority of it for their horses, despite the protests that it was needed to keep the men from starving.

Carranza declares that he will have the Mexican railway open from Vera Cruz to Mexico City by the 5th of July, but his movements heretofore would not bear him out in this assertion. Even if the road is repaired and placed in condition it will not materially relieve the condition unless large quantities of supplies arrive from the United States and are permitted to go to Mexico City.

### TAMPER WITH SCHOOLS.

A political move is on proposing to keep the Oregon school books published by the state.

Quite a plausible argument is advanced to indicate there would be considerable saving.

Those who support the plan ignore the great big facts of the case—that the best standard textbooks are copyrighted.

What we want for Oregon children are the best textbooks.

Several Oregon authors have written school textbooks that are in universal use because of their merit.

If each state printed its own textbooks, there would be a very small market for the work of Oregon authors, and we of Oregon would be denied the benefit of obtaining the best textbooks written elsewhere. Incidentally, it would cost the state of Oregon far more to publish textbooks than the price at which they can be purchased from publishers who issue them in large editions for the schools of a large number of states.

Politicians who would tamper with our educational system by an appeal to prejudice should receive little encouragement.—Oregon Voter.

On Monday night we received the first copy of the St. Helens (Oregon) Mist, issued under the management of Ernest G. Coan. The Mist is a splendidly edited, neatly printed county seat paper. Mr. Coan, who was manager of the old Booster, has the best wishes of many friends in this district and his old home for his highest success.—Paonulan, Paonia, Colo.

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